

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /073 W
-----010258 211107Z /23

O 211040Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1430
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASST.SECRETART MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: AG STEYN ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION STARTING
ON JUNE 26

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (SAPA) ITEM THIS MORNING
REPORTS THAT ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN TOLD AN AUDIENCE
OF OVAMBO HEADMEN ON JUNE 20 THAT MACHINERY FOR INDEPENDENCE
BY DECEMBER 31 WOULD BE SET IN MOTION. HE SAID "THE
REGISTRATION OF VOTERS WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY (JUNE 26) AND
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WILL LAST ABOUT THREE MONTHS SO THAT THE THREE ELECTIONS
FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CAN BE HELD BEFORE THE BEGINNING
OF THE RAINY SEASON. A FURTHER PROCLAMATION CONCERNING
DETAILS OF THE ELECTORAL ACT AND DEFINING THE TASK OF THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL SHORTLY BE ANNOUNCED. THEN
THE ELECTION DATE WILL BE MADE KNOWN." SAPA ITEM SAID
STEYN ADDED THAT SHIPANGA WAS RETURNING TO HOLD TALKS

WITH STEYN AND THAT HE (SHIPANGA) HAD ACCEPTED THE WESTERN PROPOSALS. HE WENT ON TO SAY, "THE WESTERN POWERS MUST NOW DECIDE WHICH OF THE TWO SWAPO'S THEY ARE GOING TO RECOGNISE AND WHAT THEIR NEXT STEP WILL BE IF MR. SAM NUJOMA (SWAPO'S PRESIDENT) REJECTS THE SETTLEMENT PROPLSALS AFTER MR. SHIPANGA HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED THEM. WE HAVE DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS AND THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS WELCOME TO COME TO THE TERRITORY," MR. STEYN SAID. "WE ARE NOW AWAITING WITH GREAT INTEREST THE REACTION OF THE WESTERN POWERS AND SWAPO."

2. SABC CARRIED IN ITS COMMENTARY OF JUNE 21 A STATEMENT THAT THE ELECTION DATE WOULD BE SET SHORTLY.

3. ARGUS GROUP REPORTED IN WINDHOEK, CLIVE COWLEY, CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY TEXT OF STEYN'S ANNOUNCEMENT. COWLEY ADDED THAT HE WAS SURE THE OFFICIAL REASONING BEHIND THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO GET THE ELECTION HELD BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE RAINY SEASON, WHICH BEGINS IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY AND LASTS UNTIL APRIL. HE SAID OVAMBOLAND, WHERE 46 PCT OF THE VOTERS RESIDE, BECOMES A VIRTUAL FLOOD PLAIN DURING THE RAINS AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE VOTERS TO THE POLLS. IF ELECTIONS AREN'T COMPLETED BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON COMMENCES, THEN THEY WILL BE PUSHED BACK UNTIL LATE-1979, BECAUSE CAMPAIGNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COULDN'T START UNTIL MAY. THIS, COWLEY FEELS, IS UNACCEPT-
ABLE TO THE SAG.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTER REGISTRATION, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR03470
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780258-0609
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780635/aaaabegv.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ab443984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2264636
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: AG STEYN ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION STARTING ON JUNE 26
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ab443984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014